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THE CENSUS  
OF THE DEAF AND DUMB  
IN 1851.

By DAVID BUXTON, F.R.S.L.

1855.

# COLUMBIA INSTITUTION

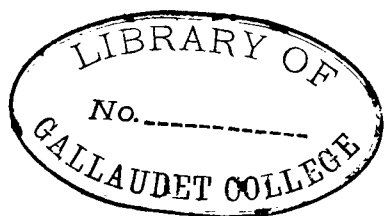
—FOR THE—

DEAF AND DUMB

THE CHARLES BAKER COLLECTION

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With the kindest compliments to Mr. Baker

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— *The Census of the Deaf and Dumb in 1851.* By DAVID BUXTON, ESQ.,  
Principal of the Liverpool School for the Deaf and Dumb.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Liverpool, 23rd September, 1854.]

SINCE the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb has begun to attract general attention, and to receive, in some countries, the aid of governments, enumerations of this afflicted class of persons have been made in many of the countries of Europe, and also in connection with the three last national enumerations of the people in the United States of America.\* The first time that any enquiry of the kind was attempted in this country, was at the census of 1851. "The plan adopted," and described in the report recently presented to parliament, "was the very simple one of including in the 'householder's schedule,' left at every house, a column in which was to be written 'blind,' or 'deaf and dumb,' against the name of any member of the family so afflicted."† The results of this enquiry have now been made public, and we are no longer dependent, for the "statistics of blindness and deaf mutism in this country," upon "estimates and conjectures, founded chiefly upon returns obtained in foreign states, or the limited experience of a few public institutions."‡

The report informs us, that, "owing to the difficulty of ascertaining the existence of dumbness in extreme infancy, the number of cases returned under that head must necessarily be slightly deficient;" but, it is "presumed that the returns . . . are on the whole tolerably complete."§ Now, if, from this cause, the actual number of young children who are deaf is understated,—of which there can be little doubt (it is even estimated that 1,241 would not be too many to add on this account ||),—it is, I think, equally certain that many aged persons are put down in these tables as "deaf and dumb," who are simply deaf from the infirmity of old age: the power of audition having failed like the other faculties, and become, in many cases, either greatly impaired, or totally extinguished, by the gradual decay of nature. It is evident, however, that these are not the persons whom we have in our minds when we speak of the "deaf and dumb." The census report itself distinguishes the two classes, in remarking that "the want of the sense of hearing in infants, or indeed, in children at any age under two years, by depriving them of the power of acquiring language,¶ necessarily causes partial or total dumbness. In later life," it is added, "when

\* Dr. Peet, of New York. *Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb*, p. 7.

† *Census of Great Britain, 1851. Population Tables*, II., vol. i., § 5. Report, p. 109.

‡ *Ibid.* p. 108.

§ *Ibid.* p. 109.

|| *Ibid.* p. 115.

¶ This is incorrect. The want of hearing does not occasion dumbness by "depriving" the sufferer "of the power of acquiring language," but by depriving him of the power of hearing spoken words, and, as a consequence, preventing his learning to imitate them. There is also a strange confusion of the terms "*language*" and "*speech*" in this passage.

speech has been acquired, deafness is attended with much less inconvenience.”\* The former class only are the deaf and dumb *proper*; and it can but lead to error to confound the latter with them. Assuming, however, that the excess on this side of the account is counterbalanced by the omissions on the other, we may, upon the whole, take the given result as sufficiently correct for a general estimate, and for comparison with the returns of other countries, which have been prepared with precisely the same disadvantages, and are therefore subject to the same exceptions.

The commonness of errors in computations of this sort, is well known to those who are familiar with the subject. The population returns of the Grand Duchy of Baden, for instance, used to attract attention on account of the excessive proportion which they shewed of deaf mutes to the whole population; but it has now been ascertained that the idiotic and the deaf and dumb had been reckoned together.† In the United States also, though the experience of several state enumerations, as well as of the national census on three separate occasions, has been had, it is found that the deaf and dumb returns are still very far from being accurate; and I have personal information that a considerable number of paupers in the poor-houses of the city of Glasgow, were returned as “deaf and dumb,” who were merely deaf (or what is called “hard of hearing”), from old age. With these facts before us, we can hardly expect that our census returns should do more, at the best, than *approximate* to a true statement of the facts. One error probably goes to the balancing of another; and additional correctness must be looked for as the fruit of additional experience, in the prosecution of enquiries of such a special and peculiar character.

But the deaf and dumb have been included in two different branches of the enquiry connected with the census of 1851. The population tables purport to tell us their numbers, both locally and in the aggregate; and the education tables profess to shew the nature and extent of the provision which is made for their education. Concerning the former tables, there can be no question that they are most valuable, and likely to be of great utility; whereas the latter are so defective and fallacious, as to be worse than useless. There seemed a possibility, at first, that this might be the result of accident, or of omissions on the part of school authorities to supply the requisite information. But it is not so. You will find in the population returns, an account of every single school which is omitted

\* Census of Great Britain, 1851. Note, p. 113.

† Thirty-fourth Report (1854) of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, p. 31. Strangely enough, an error of the same kind has been made in this country, as may be seen in the tables recently published. In vol. i., p. 323, we read that the sum of twenty-three deaf and dumb in the Colchester district is made up by the addition of “nineteen inmates of the Branch Asylum for Idiots, Essex Hall.” Of the parent Idiot Asylum, at Highgate, there is no account in any of the Reports of the Census, though it had been instituted four years before. The only school of the kind mentioned in the Education Returns is a small one at Bath, to which the Population Returns contain no allusion whatever. The Asylum for Idiots, founded in 1847, contained, in April, 1852, 141 pupils and patients, and the number has since increased to 200. The new Asylum, in course of erection, is to accommodate 400 inmates, and there are 200 applicants waiting for admission. (See Report for 1853.)

in the education tables : which proves that the information *was* furnished, and that it had not only been received but noted. We are, therefore, presented with this anomaly; the returns on education contain no adequate account of our schools, or of the number of pupils in them, but the population tables *do* : the inmates of educational institutions, excluded from the census of education, find a place for incidental mention in the foot-notes of the population tables, not, however, as school children under instruction, but merely as a portion of the population. Now it is a fact that, in this country, private liberality has raised, and is raising, annually, for the education of the deaf and dumb, a sum equal in amount to that which in France and the United States respectively, is granted from the public funds for the same purpose.\* The donors, and, indeed, the whole community, are entitled to know, and in any public document of this kind they will naturally expect to find, that the results obtained are proportionate to the support afforded. But, consulted with this view, nothing can be more deceptive and useless than the education tables of the last census. I therefore think it a duty to the cause of deaf-mute instruction in this country, and to the various institutions in which it is carried on, that the present unequalled opportunity should be employed to vindicate our national reputation in this matter ; to shew that these tables do not accurately state either how much money is raised, or how many schools are supported, or how much work is done ; that taken as evidence of what has been effected for the education of the deaf and dumb in Great Britain, since the first public institution was established for their benefit, in London, sixty-two years ago, these tables so greatly understate the case, as to do gross injustice to the noble spirit of beneficence which supports our schools, and to depose this country from the rank which it really holds among the other great nations of the world, in respect to the provision made for the education of the deaf and dumb. The education tables tell us, that in 1851, there were nine schools for the deaf and dumb in England (Table C, p. 95), and two in Scotland (Table C, p. 159); that all these eleven schools sent returns of their income for the year 1850, and that the income of the two Scottish schools from all sources (there being no endowment), was 1,405*l.*; while that of the nine English schools (three of which received, altogether, 114*l.* from endowment), was 9,403*l.* (Tables C, quoted above). Now, the amount of income thus put down for the whole of the English schools, was exceeded by that of a single institution, not included in the returns at all. Moreover, instead of 114*l.* being the whole sum derivable from endowments, the proceeds of invested funds and other property belonging to that one institution amounted, in the same year, to forty times that sum, being upwards of 4,500*l.* There is also a provision made for the deaf and dumb, in the city of Edinburgh, arising solely from endowment, of which you will find no

\* The writer has shown this elsewhere. See a paper published in the "*Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*," Liverpool, 1854, entitled "*The Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Lancashire and Cheshire*." The amount raised in England is 20,000*l.*, but in the whole of Great Britain about 24,000*l.* per annum. In France upwards of 600,000 francs are voted, and in the United States the sum is estimated at 120,000 dollars.

mention whatever in the education tables, though the population report will tell you that there were forty pupils there.

In order to shew that the education returns are not to be relied upon, as evidence of the position of deaf-mute instruction in this country, it is necessary that I should avail myself of other sources of intelligence, besides those which the census reports themselves furnish. Where the giving of information was optional, it may have been withheld. Therefore, while we look for an accurate statement of one class of facts, there is another class, the imperfectness of which may be readily accounted for, and of course excused. But this very imperfectness itself shews, what I have undertaken to prove, that as evidence of the state of deaf-mute instruction, these returns are of no value whatever.

Proceeding in the examination of the census report on education, published "by authority of the Registrar General," we find, from the dates given, that no existing school for the deaf and dumb was established in England, prior to 1821 (Table K, p. 105); whereas the London asylum was founded in 1792, and the Birmingham school in 1812. But these two institutions, though the oldest in England, are not mentioned in the returns at all; nor is the school at Exeter, nor a private one at Rugby, nor the institution at Glasgow, nor that at Aberdeen, nor that department for the deaf and dumb in Donaldson's Hospital, Edinburgh, which was just now alluded to. Yet every one of these, though excluded altogether from the education reports, must have made returns, and those returns must have been received, for each school is mentioned, and the number of pupils given, in the notes to the supplementary tables of the population returns. One school, mentioned by name in the education report, is omitted in the other: still, the excess of the deaf and dumb to the whole population in the town of Brighton (see vol. i., p. 136), shews that the inmates of the institution there must have been reckoned, though the customary special note is not added.

We will now endeavour, from the returns of the population, to supply the deficiencies of those on education. It will then be seen, from a comparison of the census tables themselves, how far below the truth is the statement which has gone forth to the world, as the official declaration on this important subject.

In Table O\* (the classification of schools in their respective counties), *nine* institutions for the deaf and dumb are given; in Table P † (or the classification in towns), there are only *seven*; one of the two schools in Lancashire, and the one in Yorkshire, not being placed in the table for "boroughs and large towns." The nine schools enumerated, are the following:—

\* pp. 110—124.

† pp. 125—136.



*The Census of the Deaf and Dumb in 1851.*

	Table O.	Table P.	Number of Pupils.
	Counties.	Boroughs.	
1	Gloucestershire .....	Bristol .....	30
2	Lancashire .....	1. Liverpool .....	56
3	Ditto .....	2. (Not named) .....	80
4	Middlesex .....	London .....	5
5	Northumberland .....	Newcastle .....	27
6	Somerset .....	Bath .....	47
7	Sussex .....	Brighton .....	38
8	Yorkshire. West Riding .....	(Not named) .....	87
9	South Wales .....	Swansea .....	22
		Total .....	392

The numbers given in the population returns differ from these in almost every case, being usually less. And it arises, I apprehend, from this circumstance: the education return would probably state the number of pupils upon the books; the other, being limited to those actually residing upon the spot on a given day, would exclude both day-scholars and absentees, while it would include such deaf and dumb adults as might be employed in the various institutions, either as teachers or servants. Thus, in the education census, the pupils of the Liverpool school are stated to be 56; but in the population tables, only 32 inmates are returned: the remainder, being day scholars, would be taken into the account at their own homes. The school which stands third in the foregoing table, is the one at Manchester, though it is nowhere so described, from the fact that it is situated in a different registration district. Our Transatlantic friends, to whom the ordinary local designations of our schools are so familiar, would be sorely puzzled to recognize under such denominations as "St. George, Southwark," "Barton-upon-Irwell," "King's Norton," and "St. Thomas," the localities of the London, Manchester, Birmingham, and Exeter schools. In that section of the census report which treats of the deaf and dumb, they may read the following passage:—"In London, a larger proportion is observed between 5 and 15 years of age, than elsewhere; a circumstance attributable to the institutions for the deaf and dumb established in the metropolis."\* Thus speaks the one report. Turning to the other, we find the inconsistent and absurd statement, that there was just *one* such institution in the metropolis, containing five pupils!† Five pupils out of 1,325 deaf and dumb, in a population of 2,362,236! Again, we read, "throughout the country, a very small number, scarcely more than 1,100, were returned as inmates of schools or asylums."‡ But where are they? The report which especially refers to "schools and asylums," gives us, instead of 1,100, less than 500, as the number of pupils in all the institutions for the deaf and dumb, throughout England, Scotland, and Wales. The population tables enable us to add to the nine schools mentioned in the education report, the following:—

\* Report, vol. i., p. 115.

† pp. 116, 136.

‡ p. 115.

Name of School.	Where Returned.	Number of Pupils.
London .....	St. George Southwark ....	301
Birmingham .....	King's Norton .....	65
Exeter .....	St. Thomas .....	39
Rugby .....	(Private) .....	19
		424
To be added from former list.....		392
Total .....		816

Thus we more than double the return which professes to give, officially and authoritatively, the status of deaf-mute instruction in England.

The same fallacious document states the schools in Scotland to be two, with 89 pupils. Again consulting the population returns, we find allusion to *five* separate establishments, containing nearly three times the number of pupils stated.

	County.	Town.	Number of Inmates.
1	Lanarkshire.....	* Glasgow .....	87
2	Edinburghshire .....	1. Edinburgh .....	68
3	Ditto .....	2. Donaldson's Hospital.....	40
4	Forfarshire .....	Dundee .....	24
5	Aberdeenshire .....	Aberdeen .....	31
Total .....			250

Seeing then, that from the returns before us, we can prove that our English institutions were not 9, with 392 pupils, but 13, with 816; and that the Scottish institutions, instead of being two in number, with 89 inmates, were 5, and contained 250; the number of schools thus omitted being 7, and of pupils no less than 585, or 55 per cent., we hold ourselves justified in declining to be judged by the evidence tendered in the education report, and in doing our utmost to discredit and to correct its injurious testimony.

The latest and most authentic table which has been prepared, shews that at the commencement of the present year, the schools in the United Kingdom contained 1,401 pupils, viz. :—

England and Wales .....	854
Scotland .....	259
Ireland .....	288

Total..... 1,401\*

Since the dates of their establishment, the British institutions have received nearly 7,000 pupils: in the following proportions:—

\* See Report of the Glasgow Institution for 1854, p. 7.

Name of Institution.	Established.	Number Admitted.
London .....	1792	2,544
Birmingham .....	1812	380
Manchester .....	1823	413
Liverpool .....	1825	310
Exeter .....	1827	212
Yorkshire (Doncaster) .....	1829	430
Newcastle .....	1839	105
Brighton .....	1841	119
Bristol .....	1841	78
Bath .....	1842	60
Cambrian (Swansea) .....	1847	40
Total for England and Wales .....		4,691
In the Irish Schools, there were or had been under instruction, when the Census Report was prepared, See <i>Status of</i> <i>Disease, &amp;c.</i> , Table xiii., p. 34 .....		1,081
The Scottish Schools, having been longer in existence, may safely be put down at the same number, or .....		1,100
Total for Great Britain and Ireland .....		6,872

The total number of the deaf and dumb returned in the various enumerations for the United Kingdom, is—

	Number of Deaf and Dumb.	Population.	Proportion.
England .....	9,543	16,738,695	1 : 1,754
Ireland .....	4,747	6,552,324	1 : 1,380
Scotland .....	2,155	2,888,742	1 : 1,340
Wales .....	771	1,188,914	1 : 1,542
Islands in the British Seas .....	84	143,126	1 : 1,704
	17,300	27,511,801	1 : 1,590

This result of 1 in 1590, for all the British population, is most remarkable, on account of its close approximation to the average for the whole of Europe, which according to the latest returns is stated to be 1 in 1,593.\*

As to the local prevalence of deafness, the proportion varies greatly in different counties. The following list exhibits the extremes of this diversity :—

In Herefordshire	there is 1 person deaf and dumb in every 1,054 inhabitants
„ Worcestershire	„ 1 „ „ 1,160 „
„ Derbyshire	„ 1 „ „ 1,272 „
„ Cornwall	„ 1 „ „ 1,278 „
„ Lancashire	„ 1 „ „ 2,045 „
„ E. R. of Yorkshire	„ 1 „ „ 2,231 „
„ Monmouthshire	„ 1 „ „ 2,300 „
„ Kent (ex.-Metrop.)	„ 1 „ „ 2,343 „
„ Durham	„ 1 „ „ 2,480 „
„ Huntingdonshire	„ 1 „ „ 3,016 „

\* Census Report on Population, vol. i., p. 113.

Thus for 1 deaf and dumb in Lancashire	there are 2 in Herefordshire.
„ 1 „ Huntingdonshire	„ 3 in Herefordshire.
„ 1 „ E. R. Yorkshire	„ 2 in Worcestershire.
„ 1 „ Durham	„ { 2 in Derbyshire and 2 in Cornwall.

In the general table, wherein the counties are grouped into districts, these results appear somewhat modified. The highest averages appear, 1, in the northern counties of Scotland; 2, in the south-western division of England, which comprises Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, and Somerset; and 3, in the southern counties of Scotland: and the lowest averages in the kingdom are found in the north-western division of England (Lancashire and Cheshire), and in the northern counties, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland. The following table, from the census report, gives the full statement:—

Table 51.	Population.	Number of Deaf and Dumb.	Proportion to Population.
Great Britain and Islands in the British Seas .....	20,959,477	12,553	One in 1,670
England and Wales .....	17,927,609	10,314	1,738
Scotland .....	2,888,742	2,155	1,340
Islands in the British Seas.....	143,126	84	1,704
<i>England and Wales.</i>			
I. London .....	2,362,236	1,325	1,783
II. South Eastern—ex.-Metrop., Surrey, and Kent; Sussex, Hants, Berks.....	1,628,386	836	1,948
III. South Midland—ex.-Metrop., Middlesex, Herts, Bucks, Oxon, Northamptonshire, Hunts, Beds, Cambridgeshire .....	1,234,332	649	1,902
IV. Eastern—Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk .....	1,113,982	669	1,665
V. South Western—Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset .....	1,803,291	1,295	1,393
VI. West Midland—Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Worcester-shire, Warwickshire .....	2,132,930	1,325	1,610
VII. North Midland—Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire .....	1,214,538	694	1,750
VIII. North Western—Cheshire, Lancashire .....	2,490,827	1,237	2,014
IX. Yorkshire .....	1,789,047	1,042	1,717
X. Northern—Durham, Northumberland, Cum-berland, Westmoreland .....	969,126	471	2,058
XI. Welsh—N.W., S.W., Moumouthshire .....	1,188,914	771	1,542
<i>Scotland.</i>			
Southern Counties .....	1,813,562	1,225	1,480
Northern Counties .....	1,075,180	930	1,156

In the four provinces of Ireland, the following is found to be the proportions:—

Leinster.....	1 deaf and dumb in	1,474
Connaught ....	1 „	1,499
Ulster .....	1 „	1,318
Munster .....	1 „	1,317

The returns for counties shew a greater disparity :—

In Roscommon, Westmeath, Dublin, and Kildare, the average is ....	1 : 1,935
„ Mayo, Limerick, Donegal, Waterford, Wicklow, Tipperary, } Tyrone, and Fermanagh .....	1 : 1,068
„ Wicklow alone it amounts to .....	1 : 1,031

These statistics of the deaf and dumb in Ireland are taken from the supplementary report on the Irish census, which has lately been presented to parliament, under the title of the “*Status of Disease*,” pp. 8—10. That part of the volume which refers to the deaf and dumb, forms one of the most valuable documents which has ever been published in this country upon the subject. For the facts to which I am now about to refer, I am indebted to the recent reports of the New York institution for the deaf and dumb, and to other publications of its president and principal, Dr. Peet, with which that gentleman has kindly furnished me.

For the United States, we gather from the census tables of 1850, the following returns :—

	Whole Population.	Deaf and Dumb.	Proportion.
White population .....	19,557,271	9,085	1 : 2,152
Coloured .....	3,633,803	632	1 : 5,750

In the state of New York, there were returned 1,253 deaf and dumb in 3,097,384, or 1 in 2,473: but a comparison of the various counties composing the state, shews that the averages range from 1 in 1,100, 1,200, and 1,300, to 1 in 4,500, 4,800, and 5,000.

In the North Eastern Counties the proportion is 1 in 1,799\*

„ South Eastern „	„	1 „ 2,880
„ City of New York itself „	„	1 „ 3,996

Extending our view to the whole of the states in the Union, we find that in the

Southern States .....	the proportion is 1 in 2,020
Northern „ .....	„ 1 „ 2,060
Extreme Western (Texas and New Mexico) „	„ 1 „ 2,800

California, Utah, Oregon, and Minnesota, are also returned, but in such a form as shews how unreasonable it is to expect from countries so recently settled, and characterized by such peculiar social conditions, any satisfactory data on such a subject. Out of a population of 32,276, only 6 deaf-mutes are returned. The very act of including such returns with the rest, only deranges and falsifies the conclusions which might be fairly drawn from facts which are better ascertained, and more trustworthy. As a general result, we have,

For all the Atlantic States .....	1 deaf and dumb in 1,961
„ Western States and Territories 1 „	2,245

\* This result agrees exactly with that for the white population of the six New England States, where 1,504 are deaf and dumb out of 2,705,772 = 1 in 1,799.

and a general average for the whole of the United States (but of the white population only, for that alone can be relied upon), of 1 deaf and dumb in every 2,152 persons.

In France (according to an official census of the population, published by the Minister of the Interior, by a decree of May 10th, 1852), there are 29,512 deaf-mutes. This, in a population of 35,783,170, gives 1 deaf and dumb in 1,212. The only other European country, concerning which we have official accounts sufficiently recent to be classed with those already reviewed, is Prussia. There, in 1849, in a population of 16,331,187, there were 11,973 deaf and dumb, = 1 in 1,364.

The variations in the proportion which the different departments of France exhibit, are very striking. According to a Table dated January 1, 1853, and published at Paris, in a monthly periodical on subjects connected with the deaf and dumb and the blind,\* the proportions vary from 1 in 686 and 1 in 691 in Corsica and the Upper Rhine, to 1 in 2,515 in the department of the Lower Seine.

In	2 departments	the proportion exceeds 1 in	700
"	4	"	1 " 800
"	6	"	1 " 900
"	8	"	1 " 1,000
"	6	"	1 " 1,100
"	11	"	1 " 1,200
"	10	"	1 " 1,300
"	10	"	1 " 1,400
"	9	"	1 " 1,500
"	12	"	1 " 1,600
"	3	"	1 " 1,700
"	2	"	1 " 1,800

The three highest are, the Tarn = 1 : 2,123, the Seine = 1 : 2,481, and the Lower Seine = 1 : 2,515.

The census tables of 1851 furnish us with the *ages* of the deaf and dumb in this country; which, however, I shall only glance at here, with a view to ascertain how far those which are of the ordinary school age are under instruction.

Of both sexes, there were in the various districts into which England was divided, the following numbers :—

District.	Aged 5—10.	Aged 10—15.	Total 5—15.
London .....	227	327	554
South Eastern .....	136	119	255
South Midland .....	110	63	173
Eastern .....	114	79	193
South Western .....	209	187	396
West Midland .....	209	210	419
North Midland .....	119	69	188
North Western .....	188	205	393
Yorkshire .....	172	168	340
Northern .....	78	54	132
Wales .....	110	124	234
	1,672	1,605	3,277

\* Le Bienfaiteur des Sourds-muets et des Aveugles. Paris, Juillet, 1853. No. 1, p. 24.

The age of admission into our English institutions, and other circumstances, result in this, that practically, the pupils may be considered to be between the ages of 9 and 14 years. The table just given affords an average of 327 children per year, between the ages of 5 and 15 years. For five of those years (say 9-14), this would make the number 1,635. We have already seen that the number under instruction in 1851, was 816; exactly one-half of what, upon this calculation, it should have been. In Scotland, there were, at the same time, between 5 and 10 years old, 315 deaf and dumb children: and between 10 and 15 years, 395, making 710 altogether. By the same reckoning, this gives 355 for the usual five years at school: the actual number being 250, or five-sevenths of the whole. In Ireland, the following results appeared:—

Provinces.	Aged 5—10.	Aged 10—15.	Total 5—15.
Leinster .....	168	158	326
Munster .....	222	190	412
Ulster .....	194	221	415
Connaught .....	88	116	204
	672	685	1,357

Five times the yearly average would here give us 678 children, who ought to have been at school: whereas the number was but 234, or one-third of the eligible number.

It results, therefore, that of the deaf and dumb children computed to be of the ages of 9-14, there were only the following proportions actually at school:—

Ireland.....	234 out of	678 = $34\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
England and Wales....	816 „	1,635 = 50 „
Scotland .....	250 „	355 = 70 „

Comparing the children who are known to be under instruction, with the whole of the deaf-mute population, we have

In Ireland.....	234 :	4,747 = 5 per cent.
„ France .....	1,642 :	29,512 = $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
„ England and Wales....	816 :	9,543 = nearly 8 per cent.*
„ Scotland .....	250 :	2,155 = more than $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
„ United States .....	1,162 :	9,717 = nearly 12 per cent.

If it be thought that these are small results, it should be remembered, not only what is being done, but what has been done, and that the whole has been accomplished within the last century. There are now, in different parts of the world—*i. e.* in Europe and North America, 200 schools for the deaf and dumb. A century ago, there was not one. Nearly 7,000 persons have received education in the schools of Great Britain since 1792; and nearly 5,000 in

\* As the 816 pupils in England and Wales are equal both to 8 per cent. of the whole deaf and dumb population, and to 50 per cent. of those who should be at school, it follows that 16 per cent. of the population is the number which should be under instruction. Formerly, before census returns were available, this number used to be estimated at one-sixth, which is as near to 16 per cent. as possible. Thus, by both computations we arrive at the same result.

those of the United States since 1817. How many more in the continental schools, all within the century, I have no means of ascertaining. But these, instead of being insignificant, are, indeed, marvellous results, when we remember the point of starting. It was in 1754, that De l'Épée was first brought, by the merest accident as it seemed, into contact with two sufferers under that calamity, the sad consequences of which he thenceforward devoted himself to alleviate. In the same year, a beginning was made by Samuel Heinicke, with a single pupil, in Dresden. In 1760, with one pupil also, Thomas Braidwood opened a school, at Edinburgh, in a place which received the name of *Dumbiedikes*, a designation which the author of *Waverley* has made immortal.\*

And from these beginnings have sprung all the schools which are now to be found in almost every considerable city in the world. When, therefore, the admiration of posterity is challenged for the great social improvements which have been made during the last centennial period, let not this be forgotten. When, for example, the historian points, as the works of this age, to the illumination of our thoroughfares and buildings,—the navigation of our streams,—the spanning of the vastest oceans of the earth by the agency of steam,—the practical contiguity of remote places, which has been brought about by the discoveries of Watt, and Fulton, and Stephenson,—the subjugation of the subtlest principle in nature, for the transmission of thought, and the transaction of daily affairs;—when he shall pronounce his deserved panegyric upon the monuments of human genius which surround us,—upon the mighty achievements of well-directed skill and industry,—the vast development of natural resources, and the wonderful augmentation of the means of human happiness, which have thence arisen,—let him remember that all this would have been entirely lost upon one numerous class in the community, if it had not been accompanied by that application of a previous discovery, which has made the education of the deaf and dumb a thing not only possible, but actual; taking it for ever out of the barren field of speculation and theory, and founding upon it one of the ordinary and permanent institutions of society.

If, from the local associations which are so strong upon us at present, I might draw an augury for the future, I would say, that as “the glory of this latter house,” in which we are assembled,† and which has been inaugurated in the centenary year of deaf and dumb institutions, exceeds that of the other public edifice,‡ which was opened with so much hope and rejoicing a hundred years ago, and as this magnificent structure aptly symbolizes the material greatness and rapid development of this community, so would I anticipate that the century now opening may equally surpass the epoch just closed, in its important and beneficial bearings upon the condition of the deaf and dumb, not only of our own nation, but of every country upon earth.

\* See “Heart of Mid Lothian.” Note E.

† St. George's Hall, Liverpool, opened September, 1854.

‡ The Town Hall of Liverpool, opened A.D. 1754.



✕. Not in 1754, for De l'Épée  
did not meet his first  
pupils, twin sisters and  
daughters of a widow until  
some time after the death  
of their teacher father  
Vanier. This event  
occurred late in 1759,  
and 1760 is the earliest  
possible date for De l'  
Épée's first work with  
the deaf and dumb.



